

VLR-6/19/73 NRHP-7/24/73

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Rockingham
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Fort Harrison

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Daniel Harrison House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
North west side of Route 42, .2 miles North east of intersection with Route T 775.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Dayton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Seventh; J. Kenneth Robinson

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Rockingham CODE: 165

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)		<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Pork <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Unoccupied

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Rockingham County Historical Society c/o President

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Fort Harrison, Inc. P.O. Box 366

CITY OR TOWN:  
Dayton

STATE:  
Virginia

CODE:  
51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Rockingham County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Harrisonburg

STATE:  
Virginia

CODE:  
51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1958  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE:  
D. C.

CODE:  
11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Rockingham

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

During the French and Indian War (1754-1763) the legislature of Virginia passed numerous acts for the defense of the frontiers and many of the already existing substantial houses were designated as "forts". This house was one of these and was known as "Fort Harrison". Originally it was surrounded by a palisade and stories of an underground passage to the nearby spring have long existed.

The original house was built of limestone with two foot thick walls. It contained four rooms and center hall with end chimneys serving fireplaces in each room. The limestone chimneys here are not a part of the wall construction but are separate units. There is no evidence of a cellar to this house at present and whether one ever existed is undetermined. It is probable that other facilities were housed within the fort in other buildings which no longer exist.

The brick extension to the north which was constructed in the early 1800's contains six rooms with a boxed staircase which ascends to the attic in the stone section. There are four significant fireplaces in this section with original mantels. The mantels and stair in the stone section are not original but were added during the renovation in the late 1800's. The stone walls also were stuccoed at that time. The window casings in the brick section are tapered and very fine in their execution. The windows in the stone section were enlarged in the renovation. Floors and doors may be original although the locks have been changed. A later front porch has since been removed.

The stone and brick sections of this house are in a bad state of deterioration and have been deemed unsafe for occupancy. Despite the alterations the house maintains its early profile with steep gable roof and wide chimney caps.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1749 c.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |   |   |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | osophy                                  | <u>History</u>                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                 | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The austere Daniel Harrison House is one of the oldest houses in the Shenandoah Valley, and is closely associated with the early history of Rockingham County. The builder, Daniel Harrison (1701-1770) was the eldest son of Isaiah Harrison and his second wife, Abigail Smith. The Harrisons came to America around 1688 and settled at Oyster Bay, Long Island. They later migrated to Sussex County, Delaware, and then moved into Rockingham County around 1738. Daniel Harrison settled near the headwaters of Cook's Creek, in the vicinity of the present village of Dayton, and built his massive stone house between 1746 and 1749. The house became a center of frontier life and served as a defensive structure during the French and Indian War, at which time it was designated "Fort Harrison". The Vestry of Augusta Parish authorized a Chapel of Ease at "Daniel Harrison's Plantation", with Anglican services being held either in the house or an adjacent structure. Nearby, Harrison operated a grist mill, distillery, and general store.

Daniel Harrison, his brothers and descendants were men of prominence in Rockingham County. The city of Harrisonburg was named for Thomas Harrison, a brother. Daniel Harrison's son, Benjamin Harrison (1741-1819), commanded a company of Augusta County troops at the Battle of Point Pleasant, and also commanded Rockingham County militia units during the Revolution. A grandson, Peachy Harrison (1777-1851) was a prominent physician, as was his son, Peachy Rush Harrison. Another of Peachy Harrison sons, Gessner Harrison (1807-1862), was a prominent educator, and served for many years as professor of ancient languages at the University of Virginia.

The house remained in the Harrison family through succeeding generations for a hundred years, inherited first by Benjamin Harrison in 1819, and then by Peachy Harrison in 1848. In 1849 it became the property of John Allebaugh, and in 1856 it was purchased by J. N. Liggett. In 1866 it was purchased by William H. and Solomon Burtner. Solomon Burtner became sole owner in 1870, and under him the house was altered extensively. The interior was largely rebuilt, the windows altered, and the stonework stuccoed. The house was purchased by the present owner, E. L. Koogler, in 1917.

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Harrison, Houston, Settlers by the Long Grey Trail, pp. 197, 319.  
 Terrell, I. L., Old Houses in Rockingham County, 1750-1850, pages 26-27.  
 Wayland, John, A History of Rockingham County, 1912, page 198.  
 Wayland, John, Historic Homes of Northern Virginia, 1937, page 229.  
 Wayland, John, Stonewall Jackson's Way, 1940, page 108.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38 ° 25 ' 04 "	78 ° 56 ' 09 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 10 acres.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
I. L. Terrell

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission      DATE: Feb. 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Ninth Street Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 51

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/>    State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____  <u>Junius R. Fishburne, Jr. Director</u>  <u>Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission</u>                  Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____                  Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____                  Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>
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U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
 Bridgewater, Va. 1964

FORT HARRISON

latitude  
 38°25'04"

longitude  
 78°56'09"

